

REVIEW

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Renal replacement therapy for acute kidney injury

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Abstract

The annual incidence of acute kidney injury (AKI) has been increasing as the population ages. Despite advances in critical care and dialysis technology, the mortality remains unacceptably high in patients with AKI during the past few decades. Renal replacement therapy (RRT) is performed to treat patients with severe AKI and multiple organ failures, as well as to remove fluid in patients with fluid overload including those with acute heart failure and lung edema in the intensive care unit (ICU). The mortality in patients with AKI requiring RRT is higher than 50 %. RRT strategies in patients with AKI depend on various conditions. However, there is little consensus on when to start and stop RRT, its optimal dose, and the choice of different RRT modalities (intermittent versus (vs.) continuous) in patients with AKI. Patients with AKI in the ICU are preferentially treated with continuous rather than intermittent RRT (IRRT), usually because of hemodynamic stability and steady of solute clearance. At present, the type and dose of RRT are dependent on the experience of the attending clinicians, including intensivists and nephrologists.

Keywords: Acute kidney injury, Renal replacement therapy, Continuous renal replacement therapy, Intermittent renal replacement therapy, Dose of renal replacement therapy, Modality of renal replacement therapy

Background

Acute kidney injury (AKI) is defined as a rapid decline in glomerular filtration rate occurring over a period of minutes to days, with retention of blood urea nitrogen and serum creatinine (SCr). AKI is one of the most common and serious complications of critically ill patients in intensive care unit (ICU). Approximately 4 % of ICU patients develop AKI requiring renal replacement therapy (RRT) [1]. As no specific pharmacologic therapy is effective in AKI patients, their care is limited to supportive management in which RRT plays a central role. Despite advances in the understanding and management of AKI including introduction of RRT, mortality in ICU patients with AKI remains largely unimproved and unacceptably high. Moreover, mortality in ICU patients with AKI severe enough to require RRT has been reported to be as high as 80 % [2, 3]. However, several issues regarding RRT remain to be solved in patients with AKI (Table 1). In particular, no consensus has been reached on the timing of the initiation and the discontinuation of RRT, or

its optimal dose, modality (intermittent or continuous), mode (hemodiafiltration (HDF), hemofiltration (HF), hemodialysis (HD)), and type of dialysis membranes for AKI. This review will discuss RRT for AKI in critically ill patients.

Review

Timing of initiation and discontinuation of RRT in critically ill patients with AKI

Critically ill patients with AKI often require RRT, but there is no consensus to guide clinicians on the timing of initiation of RRT. The traditional indications for RRT in critically ill patients with AKI include (1) volume overload resistant to diuretic agents, (2) sudden hyperkalemia, (3) severe metabolic acidosis, and (4) uremic manifestations, including encephalopathy, pericarditis, and convulsion. Several studies have examined the timing of RRT initiation in AKI patients in the ICU. It is unclear whether the early initiation of RRT improves survival and renal recovery rates [4–9]. These studies, however, differ in their definition of early and late initiation. In most studies, the timing of RRT was assessed using conventional serum biomarkers (e.g., serum urea and SCr levels), urine volume, and the time from ICU admission to the start of RRT.

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Table 1 The controversial issues regarding RRT in AKI

1. Timing of initiation and discontinuation of RRT
2. RRT modality: CRRT vs. IRRRT vs. SLED
3. Intensity (dose) of RRT
4. Dialysis membrane
5. Anticoagulation
6. RRT mode: HDF vs. HF vs. HD

RRT renal replacement therapy, AKI acute kidney injury, CRRT continuous renal replacement therapy, IRRRT intermittent renal replacement therapy, SLED sustained low efficiency dialysis, HDF hemodiafiltration, HF hemofiltration, HD hemodialysis

Until recently, three randomized controlled trials (RCTs) evaluated whether the early initiation of RRT improved mortality in patients with AKI [4, 5, 9]. In one study, Bourman et al. randomized 106 critically ill patients with AKI into three groups, 35 were treated with early high-volume HF (HVHF), 35 with early low-volume HF, and 36 with late low-volume HF [4]. Early initiation of RRT was defined as within 12 h of oliguria (urine output <30 mL/h for 6 h, or creatinine clearance <20 mL/min), whereas late initiation was defined as patient fulfillment of the conventional criteria for RRT. Compared with late initiation, early initiation of RRT did not improve mortality and dialysis dependence. A second study, in Japan, evaluated whether early initiation of RRT affected survival in 28 patients who developed AKI after cardiac surgery [5]. Patients were randomized to an early-start group, receiving RRT when urine volume was <30 mL/h for 3 h, or conventional-start group who waited to receive RRT until urine volume was <20 mL/h for 2 h. Early RRT significantly improved patient survival ($p < 0.01$), indicating that the timing of RRT initiation in post-cardiac surgery patients with AKI should be determined by urine volume not by SCr levels. In the HEROICS trial, 224 patients with severe shock requiring high-dose catecholamines following cardiac surgery were randomized to early HVHF (80 mL/kg/h) for 48 h followed by standard-volume continuous veno-venous hemodiafiltration (CVVHDF) ($n = 112$) or to standard care with delayed CVVHDF ($n = 112$) [9]. Patients in the latter group received CVVHDF when SCr was >354 $\mu\text{mol/L}$ (>4 mg/dL) or had increased threefold from preoperative levels; when urine output was <0.3 mL/kg/h for 24 h; when urea was >36 mmol/L; or when they experienced life-threatening hyperkalemia. The 30-day mortality was 36 % (40/112) in both groups ($p = 1.00$), and there were also no significant differences in 60- and 90-day mortality.

Several observational studies have assessed the relationships between the timing of RRT and mortality and renal recovery in critically ill patients with AKI requiring RRT [6–8]. The largest prospective cohort study, involving patients at 54 ICUs in 23 countries, showed that the timing of RRT influenced outcomes in critically ill

patients with severe AKI [7]. In this study, the timing of RRT initiation was stratified as early or late based on the median SCr and serum urea levels. No differences in mortality were observed between the early and late groups stratified by serum urea levels. When the timing of RRT was stratified by SCr levels, however, late RRT was associated with lower mortality than the early RRT. When the timing of RRT was defined by the median time from ICU admission to start of RRT, the crude mortality was higher for late than early RRT (72.8 versus (vs.) 58.9 %, $p < 0.001$).

A systematic review and meta-analysis showed that early initiation of RRT in critically ill patients with AKI may have a beneficial impact on survival compared with late initiation [10]. However, this conclusion was based on only two RCTs, with significant heterogeneity [4, 5]. These findings stress the need for further well-designed RCTs assessing the effects of RRT timing on patient survival.

On the other hand, no consensus has been reached on the timing of discontinuation of RRT for AKI. As no RCTs to date have evaluated the timing of discontinuation, the factors determining the decision to stop RRT and the effects of the timing of discontinuation on patient outcomes and recovery of renal function remain unclear. Only three observational studies have investigated the discontinuation of RRT in critically ill patients with AKI. Uchino et al. examined 529 patients who survived initial therapy among 1006 patients treated with continuous renal replacement therapy (CRRT) [11]. They classified 313 AKI patients weaned successfully from CRRT for at least 7 days as the success group and 216 AKI patients needed repeat CRRT within 7 days of discontinuation as the repeat-RRT group. Patients in the success group had lower ICU and hospital mortality compared with repeat-RRT group ($p < 0.0001$), and those in the success group had lower SCr, urea, and higher urine output at the discontinuation of CRRT. Multivariate logistic regression analysis showed that urine output (odds ratio (OR), 1.078 per 100 mL/day) was the most significant predictor of successful discontinuation of CRRT. Wu et al. showed risk factors for early redialysis in 94 patients with AKI who were weaned from RRT after major surgery [12]. The independent predictors for resuming dialysis within 30 days were (1) longer duration of dialysis, (2) higher Sequential Organ Failure Assessment (SOFA) score, (3) oliguria (urine output <100 mL/8 h, and (4) age over 65 years. Kawarazaki et al. examined the predictive factors of early kidney recovery (within 48 h) after CRRT initiation in AKI patients in a multicenter retrospective observational study of 14 Japanese ICUs. In multivariable regression analysis, urine output (mL/h), duration between ICU admission and CRRT initiation (days), and the SOFA score were related to early kidney recovery (OR 1.02, 0.65, 0.87; 95 % confidence interval

(CI) 1.01–1.03, 0.43–0.87, 0.78–0.96; $p < 0.001$, 0.02, 0.007; respectively) [13].

Optimal dose of RRT for AKI

Until now, the optimal dose of RRT for critically ill patients with AKI remains unclear. Whether high dose of RRT for AKI leads to the improvement of survival and renal recovery remains controversial. In the first study conducted by Ronco et al. evaluating the intensity of CRRT, 425 critically ill patients with AKI at a single center in Italy who were treated with continuous veno-venous hemofiltration (CVVHF) were randomized to three groups differing in filtration rate (20, 35, or 45 mL/kg/h) [14]. The survival at 15 days after discontinuation of CRRT was significantly lower in the lowest dose (41 %) than in the intermediate (57 %, $p = 0.007$) and highest (58 %, $p = 0.0013$) dose groups but did not differ in the latter two groups. These findings suggest that a filtration rate ≥ 35 mL/kg/h was recommended for critically ill patients with AKI requiring CRRT. Since then, rate at 35 mL/kg/h has come to be known as Roco dose widely all over the world. Three subsequent RCTs evaluated the optimal dose of CRRT for AKI [4, 15, 16]. However, all three had small numbers of patients, making them insufficiently powerful to show the effect of high-dose CRRT on survival. One single-center study compared CVVHF (mean prescribed filtration of 25 ± 5 mL/kg/h) with CVVHDF (mean prescribed filtration of 24 ± 6 mL/kg/h + mean prescribed dialysis dose of 18 ± 5 mL/kg/h) in 206 patients with AKI [15]. This study showed that the patient survival was significantly higher in patients who received CVVHDF than CVVHF, both at 28 days (59 vs. 39 %, $p = 0.03$) and 90 days (59 vs. 34 %, $p = 0.0005$). In contrast, the other two studies failed to show that increased CRRT dose improved survival in patients with AKI [4, 16].

Moreover, in 2008 and 2009, two major multicenter RCTs evaluating the impact of RRT dose on patient survival were conducted in the USA and in Australia and New Zealand [17, 18]. These two trials were the first to provide high-quality evidence guiding the prescribed dose of CRRT in patients with severe AKI. The Veterans Affairs/National Institutes of Health Acute Renal Failure Trial Network (ATN) study randomly assigned critically ill patients with AKI requiring RRT to intensive therapy ($n = 563$) or less intensive therapy ($n = 561$) [17]. In the intensive therapy group, pre-dilution CVVHDF was prescribed to provide a total effluent flow rate of 35 mL/kg/h, along with intermittent HD (IHD) and sustained low-efficiency dialysis (SLED) six times per week. In the less intensive therapy group, pre-dilution CVVHDF was prescribed to provide a total effluent flow rate of 20 mL/kg/h, as well as IHD and SLED three times per week. The primary endpoint was death from any cause by 60 days, and

the secondary endpoint included in-hospital death and renal recovery. Of the patients in the intensive and less intensive therapy groups, 302 (53.6 %) and 289 (51.5 %), respectively, died within 60 days (OR 1.09, 95 % CI 0.86–1.40, $p = 0.47$). Moreover, there were no significant differences in renal recovery and hospital mortality among both groups. This trial had several limitations, including different dialysis modes (HD, SLED, CVVHDF) and the non-report of the members of patients in each group receiving each type of RRT.

The Randomized Evaluation of Normal versus Augmented Level (RENAL) Replacement Therapy Study is the largest RCT to date evaluating the dose of CRRT for AKI [18]. The 1508 participants with AKI requiring RRT were randomly assigned to post-dilution CVVHDF with an effluent flow of 40 mL/kg/h (higher intensity therapy: $n = 747$) or 25 mL/kg/h (lower intensity therapy: $n = 761$). This trial also showed that higher intensity therapy did not lead to improvement in 28- and 90-day mortality compared with lower intensity therapy. The 90-day mortality in these two groups was 44.7 % (322/721) and 44.7 % (332/743), respectively (OR 1.00, 95 % CI 0.81–1.23, $p = 0.99$). These two large multicenter RCTs failed to show that more intensive RRT improved mortality in patients with AKI receiving RRT. Prowle et al., in a current clinical review, suggested that CRRT delivered dose of < 20 mL/kg/h should be avoided, and they recommended 20 to 25 mL/kg/h in patients with AKI requiring CRRT [19]. Similarly, in Kidney Disease: Improving Global Outcomes (KDIGO) clinical practice guidelines for acute kidney injury, delivered dose of 20 to 25 mL/kg/h should be recommended for optimal dose of CRRT in patients with AKI [20].

In Japan, however, the standard CRRT dose for patients with AKI is 600–800 mL/h, equivalent to approximately 10–13 mL/kg/h based on an average weight of Japanese patients in the ICU of 60 kg, with health insurance paying for only a very low dose for CRRT. To date, no RCT has shown that very low doses for CRRT improved survival and renal recovery compared with standard doses in patients with AKI. However, two recent retrospective observational studies assessed whether very low-intensity CRRT was associated with improved mortality and renal recovery in patients with AKI [21, 22]. Fujii et al. found no significant differences in ICU (34 vs 43 %, $p = 0.37$) and in-hospital (36 vs 53 %, $p = 0.055$) mortality between patients treated with very low-intensity CVVHDF (mean dose of 14.2 mL/kg/h) and conventional CVVHDF (mean dose of 20.0 mL/kg/h [21]. In addition, Uchino et al. demonstrated that CRRT with mean intensity of 14.3 mL/kg/h did not exacerbate ICU and hospital mortality in patients with severe AKI requiring CRRT compared with CRRT with mean intensity of 20.4 mL/kg/h [22]. Further well-designed prospective RCTs are needed to confirm that

very low dose of CRRT does not reduce survival in patients with AKI.

Several recent clinical trials have assessed whether HVHF improves mortality and recovery of renal function in patients with septic AKI [23–25]. A systematic review found that HVHF, defined as a dose of >50 mL/kg/h, did not clearly improve mortality in patients with septic AKI [26, 27]. For example, the high volume in intensive care (IVOIRE) trial, conducted at 18 ICUs in France and Belgium and the Netherlands, randomized 140 patients with septic shock requiring RRT to HVHF (70 mL/kg/h) or standard-volume hemofiltration (SVHF, 35 mL/kg/h) [25]. HVHF, however, failed to reduce the 28-day mortality compared with conventional SVHF.

In contrast, few prospective studies have assessed the dose of IHD. Schiffel et al., in a single-center study, assigned 160 patients with AKI in an alternating fashion to receive IHD on daily or on alternate days [28]. Fourteen-day mortality after the last session of IHD was significantly lower in daily IHD group (28 %) as compared with alternate day IHD group (46 %, $p = 0.01$). Extended dialysis (ED) and SLED are hybrid modalities involving low dialysate and blood flow rates and prolonged duration in critically ill patients with AKI. The Hannover Dialysis Outcomes Study evaluated the relationships between dose of ED and mortality and renal recovery in patients with AKI requiring RRT [29]. One hundred fifty-six patients were randomly assigned to receive standard ED (to maintain urea levels between 120 and 150 mg/dL) or intensified ED (to maintain urea levels <90 mg/dL); there were no significant differences in 14-day (70.7 vs. 70.4 %, $p = 0.97$) and 28-day (61.3 vs. 55.6 %, $p = 0.47$) survival between standard ED and intensified ED or in 28-day renal recovery among survivors (63.0 vs. 60.0 %, $p = 0.77$).

Other than the optimal dose of RRT for patients with AKI, clinicians who prescribe CRRT in the ICU should recognize that prescribed and delivered doses may differ. Several studies have shown that the actual delivered dose of CRRT is approximately 70–90 % of the prescribed dose [30, 31]. Claure-Del Granado et al. compared delivered with prescribed doses in critically ill patients with AKI treated with CVVHDF based on urea nitrogen concentrations in dialysis fluid [30]. This trial found that the

prescribed dose overestimated the actual delivered dose by 23.8 %, suggesting that the delivered dose should be increased 20 to 25 % to achieve a prescribed dose in patients with AKI during CRRT. Treatment downtime and reductions in filter efficacy contribute to the reductions in delivered compared with prescribed dose of CRRT. The most common causes of downtime are routine CRRT circuit change, problems related to vascular access, and procedures performed outside the ICU including surgery and other diagnostic methods.

RRT modality and RRT mode in patients with AKI

CRRT and IHD are the mainstays of treatment strategy in patients with AKI requiring RRT in the ICU. RCTs comparing these two modalities have failed to provide evidence for the survival benefits of CRRT over IHD [32–46]. The clinical question “which is the best treatment strategy for critically ill patients with AKI requiring RRT ? CRRT or intermittent renal replacement therapy (IRRT) ?” admits of further discussion. Moreover, the relative survival advantages of HDF, HF, HD, and peritoneal dialysis in critically ill patients with AKI remain unclear, with few previous RCTs comparing the effects of continuous hemodiafiltration (CHDF), continuous hemofiltration (CHF), and continuous hemodialysis (CHD) on patient mortality [47]. Newly developed hybrid technology, called extended daily dialysis (EDD)/HDF including sustained low efficiency dialysis (SLED)/HDF, has been performed in patients with AKI [48, 49]. EDD is generally defined as extended (approximately 6–10 h) HD or HDF using a conventional HD machine, blood flow rates of 100–200 mL/min, and dialysate flow rates of 200–300 mL/min (Table 2).

A large meta-analysis, performed by the Cochrane Collaboration, evaluated 15 RCTs involving 1550 patients with AKI [50]. This analysis showed no significant differences between patients treated with CRRT and IRRT in ICU (relative risk (RR) 1.06, 95 % CI 0.90–1.26) and hospital (RR 1.01, 95 % CI 0.92–1.12) mortality and in renal recovery. The KDIGO clinical practice guidelines for acute kidney injury in 2012 suggested that CRRT is preferable in hemodynamically unstable patients with AKI and in patients with acute brain injury or other causes of increased intracranial pressure or generalized brain edema [20].

Table 2 Standard RRT modality in Japan

	CHDF(CRRT)	IHD (IRRT)	SLED
Blood flow (mL/min)	80~100	200~250	100~200
Dialysate flow	500~600 mL/h	500 mL/min	200~300 mL/min
Replacement flow (mL/h)	200~300		
Treatment period (h)	24	3~5	6~10

RRT renal replacement therapy, *CHDF* continuous hemodiafiltration, *CRRT* continuous renal replacement therapy, *IHD* intermittent hemodialysis, *IRRT* intermittent renal replacement therapy, *SLED* sustained low efficiency dialysis

Furthermore, Surviving Sepsis Campaign Guidelines (SSCG) also suggested that CRRT and IRRRT showed no differences in short-term mortality in patients with severe sepsis and AKI [51]. A current systematic review and meta-analysis evaluating 7 RCTs and 16 observational studies compared the rate of dialysis dependence among survivors [52]. Evaluation of the RCTs showed no significant differences in the rate of dialysis dependence between IRRRT and CRRT (RR 1.15, 95 % CI 0.78–1.68). In contrast, observational studies revealed that the relative risk of IRRRT compared with CRRT for dialysis dependence was 1.99 (95 % CI 1.53–2.59). The largest RCT, which enrolled 360 patients with AKI, showed no difference in 60-day mortality between the CRRT and IRRRT groups [40]. The most recent RCT, in which 252 patients with AKI were randomized to receive IHD ($n = 129$) or CVVH ($n = 123$), found that the univariate ORs for the IHD group were 1.27 (95 % CI 0.76–2.12, $p = 0.36$) for 14-day mortality, 1.37 (95 % CI 0.82–2.27, $p = 0.22$) for 28-day mortality, and 1.26 (95 % CI 0.76–2.10, $p = 0.37$) for in-hospital mortality [46]. In this way, the newest RCT failed to show that CRRT was superior to IRRRT in critically ill patients with AKI requiring RRT. In addition, a recent meta-analysis evaluated seven RCTs and ten observational studies that compared EDD with CRRT in patients with AKI [53]. Although evaluation of the RCTs revealed no significant difference in mortality between EDD and CRRT (RR 0.90, 95 % CI 0.74–1.11, $p = 0.3$), the observational studies showed that the mortality was lower in patients treated with EDD than CRRT. Further, high-quality RCTs are required to confirm these results.

Many trials have investigated the impact of the RRT modality in patients with AKI on mortality and renal recovery. In contrast, the standard criteria for RRT mode (HD, HF, HDF) in AKI patients have not yet been established. Moreover, few RCTs have revealed that any RRT mode results in higher survival than the other modes in patients with AKI. Wald et al. assigned 78 critically ill patients with AKI to CVVH group or continuous venovenous hemodialysis (CVVHD) group in Optimal Mode of clearance in critically ill patients with Acute Kidney Injury (OMAKI) study conducted in Canada [47]. Sixty-day mortality and dialysis dependence in survivors were similar between CVVH group and CVVHD group (54 vs. 55 % for mortality, 24 vs. 19 % for dialysis dependence, respectively). The Beginning and Ending Supportive Therapy (BEST) kidney study, analyzing current methods of CRRT for AKI among 54 ICUs in 23 countries, showed that CVVHF was used most commonly (52.8 %), followed by CVVHDF (34 %) and CVVHD (13.1 %) [54]. In Japan, approximately 80 % of patients with AKI in the ICU who require CRRT are treated with CHDF [55]. At present, there is insufficient evidence or consensus to recommend the best RRT treatment

modality for patients with AKI requiring RRT, although CRRT may be preferable to IRRRT in hemodynamically unstable patients with AKI.

Dialysis membranes for RRT in patients with AKI

Various dialysis membranes have been used for IHD and CRRT in patients with AKI. These membranes have been classified as biocompatible membranes (BCM) and bioincompatible membranes (BICM). BCM are made of synthetic materials including polyacrylonitrile (PAN), polymethylmethacrylate (PMMA), polyamide (PA), and polysulfone (PS).

BICM are made of unsubstituted cellulose (cuprophane). Exposure of blood to the dialysis membranes during RRT activates complement and cytokines, with BCM being less active than BICM. Several studies have compared the impact of these two membrane types on mortality among patients with AKI. Six RCTs showed no significant differences in mortality or recovery of renal function between BCM and BICM [56–61]. Thus, KDIGO clinical practice guidelines for acute kidney injury have recommended BCM for IHD and CRRT in patients with AKI [20]. Similarly, a systematic review of seven RCTs comparing mortality in patients undergoing RRT with BCM and BICM revealed that the use of unsubstituted cellulose membranes should be avoided in patients with AKI [62]. A recent inclusive meta-analysis by the Cochrane Collaboration, analyzing nine RCTs and quasi-randomized controlled trials in 1062 patients with AKI requiring IHD, failed to show that BCM resulted in lower mortality and higher rates of renal function recovery when compared with BICM [63].

Conclusions

Despite several advances in the diagnosis and treatment for AKI, this condition remains associated with unacceptably high morbidity and mortality during the past few decades. In particular, when severe enough to need RRT, mortality in critically ill patients with AKI is increasing. Although RRT plays an important role in the treatment of AKI, the timing of initiation and discontinuation of RRT has not been established. In addition, previous studies have failed to show that CRRT is superior to IRRRT in patients with AKI or significant differences between BCM and BICM. Only in terms of optimal dose of RRT for AKI, two recent RCTs demonstrated that high dose of RRT does not lead to the improvement of survival rate in patients with AKI. Further well-designed RCTs are required to optimize RRT for patients with AKI.

Abbreviations

AKI: acute kidney injury; ATN: Acute Renal Failure Trial Network; BCM: biocompatible membranes; BEST: Beginning and Ending Supportive Therapy; BICM: bioincompatible membranes; CHD: continuous hemodialysis; CHDF: continuous hemodiafiltration; CHF: continuous hemofiltration;

CI: confidence interval; CRRT: continuous renal replacement therapy; CVH: continuous veno-venous hemofiltration; CVHD: continuous veno-venous hemodialysis; CVHDF: continuous veno-venous hemodiafiltration; CWHF: continuous veno-venous hemofiltration; ED: extended dialysis; EDD: extended daily dialysis; HD: hemodialysis; HDF: hemodiafiltration; HF: hemofiltration; HVHF: high-volume hemofiltration; ICU: intensive care unit; IHD: intermittent hemodialysis; IRR: intermittent renal replacement therapy; IVOIRE: high volume in intensive care; KDIGO: Kidney Disease: Improving Global Outcomes; OMAKI: Optional Mode of clearance in critically ill patients with Acute Kidney Injury; OR: odds ratio; PA: polyamide; PAN: polyacrylonitrile; PMMA: polymethylmethacrylate; PS: polysulfone; RCT: randomized controlled trial; RENAL: Randomized Evaluation of Normal versus Augmented Level; RR: relative risk; RRT: renal replacement therapy; SCr: serum creatinine; SLED: sustained low-efficiency dialysis; SOFA: Sequential Organ Failure Assessment; SSCG: Surviving Sepsis Campaign Guidelines; SVHF: standard volume hemofiltration; vs.: versus.

Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

Authors' contributions

SN made the substantial contributions to the study conception and design, and acquisition analysis, and interpretation of the data. DK, SK, YI, and TS helped to draft the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript submitted for publication.

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